

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Montana Highway 78

☐

not for publication

city or town Red Lodge

☒

vicinity

state Montana

code MT

county Carbon

code 009

zip code 59701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide x local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- ☐ private
☒ public - Local
☐ public - State
☐ public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY / cemetery/mausoleum

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY / cemetery/mausoleum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE; STUCCO

roof: CONCRETE; METAL

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is a 232-crypt community mausoleum constructed in the early 1920s for the citizens in and around the City of Red Lodge, Montana. It is located in the Red Lodge City Cemetery, approximately 1 mile west from the City of Red Lodge. The cemetery is sited on a flat grassy bench, locally known as the "West Bench" and has minimal landscaping. The rugged Beartooth Mountains line the far side of bench, providing the cemetery a dramatic backdrop. Montana Highway 78 defines the cemetery's eastern boundary. The mausoleum dominates the cemetery landscape and is surrounded in three directions by above ground burials. Ranching and farming are the primary land use activities in the area. An ever-increasing number of rural homes, however, have appeared near the cemetery in recent years.

Narrative Description

Mausoleums are freestanding buildings or structures constructed to entomb human remains for perpetuity, providing an alternative to earth burials. The burial compartment in a mausoleum is generally known as a crypt. Single-crypt mausoleums housing the remains of just one individual are common features of many cemeteries across the United States. Mausoleums built for several members of a single family are prevalent as well. Less frequent in number are large multi-crypt mausoleums that serve a community of individuals not necessarily associated by birth.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum stands near the center of the cemetery grounds, where it is just within the bounds of the Catholic Cemetery. The oldest parts of the cemetery are next to Highway 78 and include a 4.9-acre Catholic Cemetery to the south and 6 acres of City Cemetery to the north. The City of Red Lodge owns and maintains another 12 acres along the west side of the older grounds. The City of Red Lodge currently owns the mausoleum and the parcel on which it sits. The mausoleum is the largest building in the cemetery and visually dominates its cultural landscape. Only three other buildings exist, including two smaller single-crypt mausoleums and a city-owned shed. All other burials in the cemetery are interments in earth. Headstones mark most graves.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum was built by the Consolidated Mausoleums Company of Billings. Construction commenced in the fall of 1921, and the building was all but completed one year later, except for interior finishing work. It took another two years, or until the fall of 1924, before work on the interior ended. The building has seen very few changes, both inside and out, over the years.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum faces due east. The primary structural masses are rectangular blocks which are arranged together in a crucifix plan. They include a very tall central chapel bordered by three lower crypt wings, one each on the north, south and rear (west) elevations. The chapel measures about 20 feet wide (north-south) by 72 feet long (east-west). It is comprised of an approximately 12-foot long narthex or front foray and a 60-foot long nave, or the chapel proper. The three crypt wings flank the nave.

The mausoleum is of reinforced concrete construction from foundation to roof. It reportedly took two million pounds of "sand, gravel and cement" to complete. The foundation walls above grade are 38 inches thick. Exterior walls taper in width from 38 inches at the foundation to 30 inches at the top. A heavy coat of tan-colored stucco covers the walls at the front foray and three crypt wings. The upper walls of the chapel, above the crypt wings, displays a smooth concrete finish, painted white. They are pierced by clerestory windows.

At the time of the mausoleum's completion, Consolidated Mausoleums declared it the "first reinforced concrete gable roofed structure in Montana and probably in the entire northwest." Although unsubstantiated, the statement likely was closer to the truth than not. Only the chapel roof, not the crypts, is a gable. It has very low-pitch, and essentially is a series of concrete post and beams, or ribs. A single, massive 12-foot rib covers the front foray, while five much slender (but still substantial) ribs are in the chapel. The beams of the ribs support contiguous bands of concrete "purlins." All three of the crypt wings have a low-pitch shed roof, also comprised of concrete members. Roofing material originally consisted of

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copper sheeting. Most of that sheeting reportedly “disappeared” decades ago. The city recently removed the remaining pieces and recoated the roof with a skim of concrete.¹

The gable roof at the front foray is behind tall parapets on all three elevations. The two side parapets are flat while the front parapet features a long, low gabled step at center. All three parapets display a stucco wall finish and are capped by concrete coping.

Parapets also rise along the front (east) line of the roofs at the two side wings. These parapets stand several feet below the top of the front foray. Each consists of about a three-foot tall concrete wall with two bands of molding.

The front foray's façade is adorned by a simple temple front, reminiscent of the Classical Revival Style. The temple front is framed by a near-full height concrete pilasters and a concrete beam. Two Tuscan columns stand inside the temple's deeply recessed entry, one at either end. The columns visually support a concrete-panel architrave incised with “PAX,” the Latin term for peace or the “kiss of peace,” as celebrated in the Catholic mass. Three stained-glass clerestory windows pierce the temple front's concrete frieze. The recessed front entry is fronted by a low concrete stoop. Flattened pedestal urns for flowers stand at either end of the stoop (one each end).

A pair of massive bronze doors occupies the front entry. They reportedly weigh around 200 pounds each and swing on ball-bearing hinges. Consolidated Mausoleums' installed the doors well after construction of the building started but before the interior finishing work was completed in the fall of 1924. A pair of temporary paneled-wood doors served the building in the meanwhile (see Photo # 7). Each of the bronze doors has a ¾-light window which held leaded glass originally. The lead glass is gone, replaced with plate glass.

The mausoleum has two small receiving vaults, one on either side of front foray. These vaults are not an original component of the mausoleum, but were added around the spring of 1924. They saw use as temporary storage facilities for deceased person's caskets prior to final interment. Measuring about 8-feet square each, the vaults are identical structures, made of reinforced concrete and veneered on the exterior by the same tan-colored heavy stucco found on the mausoleum. They rest on concrete foundations and are topped by hipped roofs still surfaced by original copper sheeting. Roof eaves are boxed. A board frieze defines the wall-roof juncture. Each vault has a pair of metal-framed doors on its side (i.e., north- or south-facing) wall. These doors are the only means of accessing the interior of a vault and loading caskets.

The mausoleum proper contains 232 crypts. These crypts consist of a honeycomb of rectangular-shaped, concrete-walled compartments. Consolidated Mausoleums reportedly used 12,500 square feet of diamond mesh steel reinforcement in their construction. The crypts are arranged in vertical rows of five to six crypts each. Two vertical rows of five crypts each are housed within the front foray, one on either side of the doorway. These ten crypts are the mausoleum's largest “deluxe” or “companion” units, large enough to hold multiple caskets.

All of the crypts face into the chapel of the mausoleum. The long north and south side wings both contain 96 crypts which are arranged in 16 vertical rows of five crypts each. Rows in each are grouped together into sections, with each section framed between a pair of roof posts or pilasters. From one end of a wing to the other, the order of the sections is as follows: one, 2-row section; three, 4-row sections; and one 2-row section. The outer two sections are known as “chain sections.” The center two rows of the three middle sections are reserved for families.

The rear wing contains the remaining 30 of the mausoleum's 232 crypts. A single pilaster divides these crypts into two sections. Both sections are comprised of three vertical rows of five crypts each.

The chapel's interior materials and fixtures are simple but of high quality. A grey Alaskan marble finishes the walls and floors. The marble walls are comprised of a single panel or faceplate at each crypt, all defined by narrow horizontal and vertical marble bands between each panel. The pilasters that separate the sections are surfaced by marble as well, and each is fronted by a marble pedestal with a marble flower urn on top. The center family section of crypts at each wing is framed by low marble sidewalls, about three crypts tall each.

Bronze nameplates memorialize most of the occupied crypts. Some have etched glass flower vases at each end. Originally the nameplates were supplied by the association that maintained the mausoleum, accounting for their fairly

¹ Skip Boyer, City of Red Lodge Maintenance Shop, telephone interview with Mary McCormick, 18 August 2010.

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uniform appearance. "Slender copper flower pots" originally hung from the concrete ceiling in the nave. They were removed from the building, however, by parties unknown.

Most of the mausoleum's clerestory windows hold stained glass windows. The most elaborate and detailed are the three clerestories on the front façade. A winged angel nestling a Bible in one hand and raising a cross in the other is depicted in the center window, the largest of the three. Cross-covered shields flank the angel, two on each side. The two smaller windows display three cross-covered shields each. The phrase "In Memory of Carbon County's World War Heroes" spans the lower portion of the three windows.

Clerestory windows in the chapel are arranged in single and triple settings. One long window is above each of the four chain sections of crypts in the north and south elevations; a setting of one long window between two small windows is above each of the three center sections of crypts on the north and south elevations; and there are three small windows above the crypts on rear (west) elevation. The three rear windows and one of the small windows on the south elevation have plain glass. All of the other windows, however, are Prairie-style leaded glass windows, exhibiting both stylized floral and circular geometric patterns.

The mausoleum has a system of air ducts for crypt ventilation, but was otherwise constructed without electric or water service or mechanical air conditioning or heating systems. The intakes and outlets for the air duct systems appear in the foundation walls, and just below the roof in the walls of narthex, three crypt wings and two receiving vaults. Each is a long rectangular opening covered by a metal grate.

Integrity

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum retains all aspects of integrity. The mausoleum stands in its original location. The surrounding grounds continued to be a devoted cemetery, and the mausoleum is still its most prominent architectural feature. A scattering of modern homes can be view from the mausoleum, but the setting overall remains rural.

The mausoleum's integrity of design and materials is exceptional. Exterior changes are limited to the loss of the chapel roof's original copper sheeting and lead-glass windows at the bronze front doors. Three of the clerestory windows lack lead glass windows as well. Their mutual location at the back of the building suggests, however, that they may have always of been plain plate glass windows instead of lead glass. The interior of the mausoleum is equally pristine, and continues to display all of its original fabric and fixtures except for the copper flower pots that once hung from the ceiling.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922 - 1961

Significant Dates

1922, 1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1922 when construction of the mausoleum commenced and ends in 1961, the current end of the historic era. The ending date is justified by the fact that ownership and operation of the mausoleum did not change.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is also eligible for listing under Criteria Consideration D as representative of distinctive funerary architecture and is able to convey its historic appearance and express its design values.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding representative example of mausoleum architecture and one of the few such buildings in rural Montana. The mausoleum is unique in its setting in an isolated rural community with a small population. While the larger cities in Montana such as Billings and Great Falls have mausoleums in their cemeteries, the presence of such monumental architecture in a small mountain community is unusual.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is significant under Criterion C as a vernacular expression of one of the few solely American architectural styles, the Prairie School. Introduced in the late nineteenth century by a group of visionary architects in Chicago, led by the famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, the style remained popular in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum displays elements of the Prairie style, beginning with the symmetrical or rectangular plan with the principal central mass flanked by two lower lesser wings. The dominant symmetrical front facade is flanked to either side by a flattened pedestal urn for flowers and exhibits a large frieze about the entry. Leaded stained-glass windows at the facade and clerestory display geometric patterns indicative of the Prairie style.²

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum also is an excellent example of the utilization of reinforced concrete in construction of such substantial buildings. Development and refinement of reinforced concrete for building construction soon after the turn of the century replaced cut stone as the primary building material for above ground entombments. Reinforced concrete construction was far less labor intensive and thus less expensive means of construction. It also allowed for advances in ventilation systems within mausoleums, improving sanitation of above ground interments.

The Red Lodge Communal Cemetery retains excellent integrity and is original in nearly every respect.

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

Background to Red Lodge

An Apsaalooke (Crow) chief described southcentral Montana as "a good country because the Great Spirit had put it in exactly the right place." The Mountain Crow, the largest division of the Apsaalooke people, came to live in northern Wyoming and southeastern Montana over 500 years ago or possibly longer. The Mountain Crow ranged as far east as the Powder River and as far west as the Yellowstone River and depended on the availability of game and edible plants.³

Beginning with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, the United States Government steadily reduced the bounds of the Crow homeland. That treaty designated Crow Territory to encompass all lands south of the Musselshell River between the headwaters of the Yellowstone River to the west, the headwaters of the Powder River to the east and the main ridge of the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming to the south. The discovery of gold in southwestern Montana in the early 1860s by non-Indians, placed further pressure on the Crow.⁴ The second Fort Laramie Treaty in 1868 reduced Crow Territory by removing all lands in Wyoming, north of the Yellowstone River and the divide between the Big Horn and Rosebud Rivers, restricting the Crow to approximately 8000 acres. An 1880 agreement approved by Congress in 1882 eliminated all Crow lands west of the Boulder River. Under this agreement, the Crow Tribe also ceded a wide strip of land that extended to the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River encompassing the area surrounding present-day Red Lodge.⁵

The 1882 agreement opened the Red Lodge area to Euro-Americans. The first white settlers arrived within a few years, establishing small ranches on the grassy bench lands along Rocky Fork Creek. Entrepreneurs also began efforts to develop the region's extensive coal deposits. The Rocky Fork Coal Company opened the first commercial mine at Red

² Information on the prairie style taken primarily from Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1990), 439-449.

³ Little Big Horn College, "Apsaalooke Writing Tribal Histories Project," accessed at <http://lib.lbhc.cc.mt.us/history>.

⁴ "Treaty of Ft. Laramie, 1851," in Charles J. Kappler, ed. and comp. *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties 2 vols.*, vol. 2 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1904), 594-596.

⁵ "Act of April 11, 1882," Kappler, *Indian Affairs*, vol. 2, 1063-1064.

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Lodge in 1887. Two years later, it constructed a short-line railway into the area and its mine, a route that soon came under the control of the great Northern Pacific Railway. These developments ushered in a period of growth for both City of Red Lodge and the surrounding mining district. The boom at Red Lodge further escalated in the late 1890s when a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific took over the Rocky Fork Company's mines and Red Lodge coal became a major source of locomotive fuel for the railroad's Montana operations.⁶

European immigrants flocked to Red Lodge seeking employment in the coal mines. By 1900, the city of Red Lodge boasted over 2,000 residents, nearly half of which foreign born, including representatives from Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Finland, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Members of these groups maintained ethnic ties, forming their own social and economic associations. By 1910, population at Red Lodge had more than doubled to around 5,000 and contained an immigrant mix of nearly 75 percent.⁷

The coal mining industry at Red Lodge continued to prosper into the late 1910s. Increased operational costs and a labor dispute, however, convinced the Northern Pacific to abandon its mines in the area in favor of surface coal operation at Colstrip in 1924. While certainly a blow, the local economy did not completely falter, sustained by mining activities elsewhere in the district and Red Lodge's historic role as the center of shipping, commercial and social activities for the surrounding agricultural communities. A much needed boost to the city followed in the mid-to late 1930s when the federal government completed construction of the Beartooth Scenic Highway. The new roadway opened Red Lodge to tourists traveling its majestic route between the town and Yellowstone National Park. The city's population held steady into the early 1940s, hovering around 3,000.⁸

Red Lodge City Cemetery

The locale of the City and Catholic cemeteries at Red Lodge has seen use as burial grounds by Euro Americans since the city's earliest years. At least a few graves existed by mid-summer of 1888. At that time, a surveyor for the federal government made note of the "small cemetery" and identified it as an approximately 0.1-acre parcel at the end of a road from Red Lodge. Among the earliest entombments was Milo L. Macumber, Red Lodge's first doctor who died in late January 1888 at the age of 42. The cemetery held the graves of at least five more individuals by late 1890. Presumably, some type of epidemic hit Red Lodge in the following year, resulting in 18 more burials at the cemetery, many of which were children.⁹

The massive death toll of 1891 made clear the need for larger and more formal burial grounds at Red Lodge. The city government as well as the local Catholic parish, St. Agnes, both responded, purchasing cemetery lands by late 1893. The Red Lodge City Cemetery consisted of 5 acres immediately south of the old cemetery. The Catholic Cemetery, in turn, was a parcel just shy of 5 acres just south of the new city's cemetery. Developments at the cemetery grounds proceeded in the fashion typically of day, with burial plots aligned in tidy, parallel rows, and headstones marking most graves.¹⁰

⁶ Shirley Zupan and Harry J. Owens, eds., *Red Lodge: Saga of a Western Area Revisited* (Red Lodge: Carbon County Historical Society, 1979; reprint Billings: Frontier Press, 1997), 20-22, 129-31; Jon Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value: The Montana, Wyoming & Southern Railroad, 1905-1953," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 49 (Winter 1999): 48-63; "Red Lodge, Montana: Historical Populations," accessed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Lodge,_Montana.

⁷ Zupan and Owens, *Saga of a Western Area*, 196-98; Bonnie Christensen, *Red Lodge and the Mythic West: Coal Miners to Cowboys* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2002), 58.

⁸ Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value;" "Red Lodge Commercial Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nominations Form, 1986, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena; "Red Lodge, Montana: Historical Populations."

⁹ Scott J. Wagers, *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of 5.1 Miles of Montana Highway 78, Northwest of Red Lodge, Carbon County, Montana* (Billings: Ethnoscience, Inc., 2008), 6.22-6.23, submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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The City and Catholic Cemeteries adequately served the Red Lodge area into the first two decades of the twentieth century. A significant water drainage problem, however, made some of the grounds unsuitable for intermittent. Heavy rains would pool and virtually transform the grounds into a marshy swamp. Seepage out of a private irrigation ditch that ran just above (west of) of the cemetery exacerbated the problem. For some, the potential that their bodies and those of their loved ones could possibly be subject to water decay made the mere thought of burial in the Red Lodge City Cemetery less than desirable.¹¹

In the early Spring of 1921, the citizens of Red Lodge heard news for the first time of a bold new undertaking intended to improve conditions at the Red Lodge Cemetery, being the construction of a large mausoleum with crypts available to the public. At that time, the Consolidated Mausoleums Company of Billings embarked on an aggressive campaign in the *Red Lodge Journal-Picket*, a weekly newspaper, to garner interest and support in the project. Its activities at Red Lodge came as the company neared completion of a 330-crypt mausoleum in Billings, one of the first and the largest by far communal buildings of its type in the state of Montana. Consolidated Mausoleums attributed the success of the Billings project to its mass appeal, offering both the rich and poor alike "above ground entombment at no greater costs than for an ordinary earth burial."¹²

A. L. "Al" Ranklin spearheaded Consolidated Mausoleums' effort to develop a community mausoleum at Red Lodge, having assumed the office of president of the company within a year or two after its formation in 1919. A native of Clarinda, Iowa, Ranklin had been involved in a variety of ventures prior to his tenure with Consolidated Mausoleums.¹³ As a young man, he participated in the Alaskan gold rush boom from its outburst in the late 1890s to 1903. Ranklin seemingly left Alaska and returned to the states none the richer. During the next ten years, he opened a life insurance company in Oklahoma City and then what he later claimed to be Montana's first fire insurance company in Butte. While at Butte, he also became involved in a scheme for providing irrigation waters to 25,000 acres near the city. In the early 1910s, Ranklin became a proponent of another potential irrigation project, this one in the Little Missouri River region of southeastern Montana. Managing construction of Billings' community mausoleum apparently marked the beginning of his career in the funeral business. Many years later, he declared that with that project "I settled down and became a citizen."¹⁴

Consolidated Mausoleums proposed to finance construction of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum by "popular subscription," or the presale of crypts to the public. Ads in the *Journal-Picket* informed the public that work on the building would not commence until all of the crypts had been sold, but payments were not due until construction started.¹⁵ Crypts ranged in price based on their location in a vertical row. Crypts at mid-level to the bottom of a row, which could be easily viewed and accessed by family and friends, cost the most. Those toward the top of a row sold at a significantly lower price. Individual crypts and family sections of multiple crypts were also offered.¹⁶

On the 10th of August 1921, Consolidated Mausoleums announced that all the crypts as "originally planned" had been sold.¹⁷ Shortly thereafter, the company entered into a contract for deed with the pastor of St. Agnes Church for a 4-foot wide (north-south) by 85-foot long (east-west) strip of land along northern edge of the Catholic Cemetery. It also acquired a deed out right for an adjoining, although much narrower, of strip land in the City Cemetery. The company fulfilled the contract and received title to the larger Catholic Cemetery parcel late that same fall.¹⁸

¹¹ Ibid., 6.24; "Start Construction Work," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 14 September 1921, 1.

¹² *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 27 April 1921, 4.

¹³ Montana Secretary of State, "Consolidated Mausoleums Company," ID # D012328, Business Entity Search, accessed at <https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/besCertificate.cgi?action=detail&besearch>; "Ranklin," *Billings Gazette*, 17 March 1974.

¹⁴ "Dean of the Sourdoughs," *Billings Gazette*, 18 February 1968.

¹⁵ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 27 April 1921, 4; 25 May 1921, 4; 13 July 1921, 6.

¹⁶ Hand drawn diagrams of various sections of mausoleum crypts, undated, in folder labeled "Red Lodge Mausoleum," on file at the City Clerk Office, Red Lodge City Hall [subsequent citation of documents in this folder will identify the folder and its location as: Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office.]

¹⁷ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 10 August 1921, 6.

¹⁸ Carbon County Clerk and Recorder, Deed Book 31, p. 298; Deed Book 56, p. 322.

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Meanwhile, construction of the mausoleum started in the first or second week of September. At that time, Ranklin provided a detailed description of the proposed building to the *Journal-Picket*. The mausoleum was to be about 40 by 85 foot in size and constructed entirely of reinforced concrete, including the roof. Current plans called for a capacity of "212 bodies." Consolidated Mausoleums, however, was seriously considering the option of the enlarging the building. The crypts were to be arranged around a chapel where memorial and funeral services could be held and family and friends might visit their deceased love ones. Rich finishing treatments and fixtures would appoint the chapel, including a pair of massive bronze entry doors, interior wall and floor coverings in marble and "beautiful Cathedral art glass" windows, among others. Total cost of construction was estimated at \$40,000.¹⁹

The company only planned to complete the mausoleum's foundation that first fall, before shutting down construction for the duration of the winter. Construction would not resume until the summer of 1922 when weather warm enough for the proper setting of concrete returned. Subscribers were expected to make good on their second payment during the winter lay off period. The third and final payment was due at completion of the roof, scheduled to occur by late summer of 1922.²⁰

Although its early newspaper ads professed crypts would no longer be available once construction commenced, Consolidated Mausoleums continued its sales campaign in the *Picket-Journal* well into 1922. Extension of sales was likely fueled, in part, by the company's apparent desire to add more crypts to the building. At the same time though, many of the original 212 crypts had not yet been paid for. Religious and civic themes dominated the company's new ads, while the practical and sanitation aspects of entombment in a modern mausoleum continued to be emphasized.²¹ One such advertising statement, for example, read:

Entombment is sanctioned by all biblical teachings, law of sanitation, intellectual thought and sentiment of the heart. Endorsed and supported by nearly all of the business and professional interests of Red Lodge. Join the movement. Help to make your mausoleum a matter of civic pride to all citizens of Carbon County.²²

Derogatory comments, although veiled, about the water problems at the Red Lodge Cemetery also appeared periodically in the new ads. The likelihood water seepage could and would eventually impact the structural integrity of the mausoleum as well, however, soon convinced the company to address the problem itself. Arrangements were made for relocating the irrigation ditch further back from the cemetery. Additionally, the company installed a system of tile drains for collecting water runoff and conveying it away from the burial grounds.²³

Laborers finished the mausoleum's roof in early October 1922. Although considerable interior work remained, not least of all was the installation of the marble wall panels and flooring, the first known entombment at the mausoleum occurred only a few short weeks later. The deceased was Dr. Alphaeus V. Fulhrer, one of Red Lodge's most prominent citizens. Fulhrer, a Canadian by birth, first came to Red Lodge in 1896. He found employment as a carpenter and remained in city until 1900. At that time, Fulhrer headed east to attend dental school at the University of Buffalo, New York. Immediately following his graduation in May 1904, he married Margaret B. Eberly, returned with her to Red Lodge, and opened a dental office. Fulhrer's successful practice ended with his untimely death at the age of 42.²⁴

Almost two full years passed before Consolidated Mausoleums received and installed the final shipment of Alaskan grey marble in September 1924. This last piece of finishing work marked the building's completion, at long last. The company celebrated the occasion by opening the chapel to the public. Visitors observed leaded glass bronze doors at the main entry, "slender copper flower pans" hanging from the ceiling, large marble urns on marble posts, and tall marble ledges framing family crypts. With a "little scrutiny" a few also detected tracings of fanciful figures in the marble wall panels and

¹⁹ "Start Construction Work on Mausoleum," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 14 September 1921, 1.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 7 June 1922, 3; 5 July 1922, 3; 11 October 1922, 10.

²² Ibid., 5 July 1922, 11.

²³ "Start Construction Work on Mausoleum," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 14 September 1921, 1.

²⁴ "New Mausoleum Has Distinctive Points," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 18 October 1922, 1; "Death of Well Known Dentist Shocks City," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 25 October 1922, 1.

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flooring. Ranklin spoke to the accomplishment, noting that “no expense in time, trouble, material or expert workmanship was spared to make the structure permanent and imperious to the ravages of time.”²⁵

Sometime between completion of the roof in October 1922 and the interior work in September 1924, the company added 20 more crypts, bring the total number to 232.²⁶ Many of the original crypts, let alone the new ones, however, had still yet to be subscribed. The company advertised that a “limited number of number of crypts may yet be had at \$250 and up.”²⁷

Although Consolidated Mausoleums owned the mausoleum and the property on which it stood, the company never intended to assume responsibility for operating the facility or maintaining the building. Instead, it encouraged individuals owning crypts to take advantage of a new state law that provided for the establishments of associations to manage public cemeteries. Towards this end, a representative group of crypt owners incorporated the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association (Red Lodge Mausoleum Association) in late 1923. All of the crypt owners automatically became voting members of the association. They elected a board of trustees to governor the association’s affairs.²⁸

As one of its first duties, the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association established a “permanent and perpetual endowment” for use to fund maintenance and repair projects at the mausoleum. The endowment was seeded by a small portion of the proceeds from the sale of crypts. For each crypt sold, no matter its cost, Consolidated Mausoleums turned over \$15 to the association. Additionally, the association was to receive a \$10 fee for sealing a crypt following an entombment, an expense that some owners may not have been aware of at the time they purchased a crypt.²⁹

The Red Lodge Mausoleum Association decided early on to take advantage of its endowment to fund an ambitious project, the addition of two receiving vaults to the still yet unfinished mausoleum. The receiving vaults were proposed for holding caskets of recently deceased persons whose entombments or burials had been delayed due to winter weather or other causes. Use of the vaults came at cost in the form of rent. Association members anticipated the rent fees as a long-term source of income. The vaults themselves cost \$1,600 to build, an amount which likely all but depleted the endowment for a time.³⁰

A few families were so impressed with the new mausoleum that they exhumed deceased relatives and re-interred their remains in a crypt. The activities of Charles C. Bowlen typified this movement. One of Red Lodge’s earliest and wealthiest citizens, who had made his fortune in the lumber business, Bowlen purchased a family section of crypts and moved his four deceased sons and father there. One son had died at infancy in 1906, while the three older boys and their grandfather all passed in the late 1910s. In the ensuing years, several more members of Bowlen’s family came to rest in mausoleum, including Bowlen himself, his second wife Elma, and at the least three others, most likely children or grandchildren. The Bowlen section is the largest family grouping at the mausoleum today.³¹

As predicated by the Consolidated Mausoleums Company, the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum did not become the exclusive domains of the area’s more wealthy and prominent citizens, such as the Dr. Fulhrer and the Bowlens. Coal miners, family farmers and members of other middle and low working class professions found eternal refuge there as well.³²

²⁵ “Finish Construction of Local Mausoleum,” *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 18 September 1924, 1.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 18 September 1924, 3.

²⁸ Revised Codes of Montana, 1921, Section 6469-6502; Montana Secretary of State, “Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association,” ID # D014521, Business Entity Search, accessed at <https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/besCertificate.cgi?action=detail&besearch>.

²⁹ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 27 April 1921, 4; Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, “Trustee Account,” 18 October 1951 and A.L. Ranklin, correspondence to Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, ca. September 1960, both in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office.

³⁰ Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, “Trustee Account,” 18 October 1951; Ranklin, correspondence to Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, ca. September 1960; photograph of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, ca. 1924, photographer unknown, original print on file at the Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, Red Lodge.

³¹ Zupan and Owens, *Saga of a Western Area*, 296, “Bowlen, Charles,” index card in subject files, Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, Red Lodge; Mary McCormick, personnel observations, Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, 27 July 2010.

³² Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum crypt lists, in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office; Bert Dothit, Smith Funeral Chapel, Red Lodge, telephone interview with Mary McCormick, 11 August 2010.

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Of the various ethnic communities in the Red Lodge area, the Italians favored the mausoleum in the most noteworthy numbers. Entombment within monuments erected above ground was a long-standing tradition in Italy, dating back to the days of the Roman Empire. Grand or humble, the mausoleums for many Italians served as strong visual reminder of the importance in properly commemorating deceased family members.³³

Consolidated Mausoleums ultimately ended up with far more unsold crypts on its hands than expected at its Red Lodge project and in Billings. Many crypts likely had been reserved at one time, but the subscribers failed to make good on their payments. Ranklin kept the company active and himself gainfully employed for many years managing crypt sales at Red Lodge and Billings. Additionally, he oversaw the handling of many of the interment details at the Red Lodge facility, acting on the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association's behalf. By his own account, Ranklin went "uncompensated" for many of those services. Between 1939 and late 1951, however, he was paid \$90 of endowment fund monies for administering 30 funerals. By then, a total of 163 crypts at the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum had been bought and paid for, leaving 69 available for sale.³⁴

In May 1973, Rankin, then in his late 90s, met with several of the crypt owners to work out details for transferring ownership of mausoleum and the land on which it stood to the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association. The parties agreed that, after another six crypts sold, Ranklin would deed ½ interest in the property to the association and the other ½ interest to Arnold Kautsky, the caretaker for the community mausoleum at Billings. In exchange for ½ interest, Kautsky would be available to the association for management advice, if needed. Upon Kautsky's passing, the association would become the owner of recorded of his ½ interest, giving it complete title to the property. At the meeting, Ranklin indicated a "stake" of as much as \$16,000 in unrealized crypts sales would likely accompany the final deed transfer and provide the association much need funds for repairing the mausoleum."³⁵

Kautsky died 9½ years later in December 1996. At that time, Red Lodge Mausoleum Association members estimated the mausoleum required about \$20,000 in repairs, primarily the roof. Its trust account, however, was far short of that, amounting to under \$4,000. The association turned to the City Council of Red Lodge for relief. In August 1997, the Council passed a resolution to accept ownership of the mausoleum and the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association quit claimed all interest in the property to the City of Red Lodge. The City continues to own and maintain the mausoleum at present, but has disallowed the sale of crypts and additional entombments.³⁶

Mausoleum Architecture

Construction and use of mausoleums traces back to antiquity. The Great Pyramids of the Egyptian Pharaohs, for example, are mausoleums. The term mausoleum originated with the tomb of Maussollos, a Persian satrap of Caria (in present-day Turkey) of the fourth century BC. Designed by Greek architects, this massive above-ground entombment became named one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Rulers throughout the Greco-Roman World soon adopted the practice. By the time colonization of North America began in the seventeenth century, both individual and family mausoleums were popular with members of the landed classes in many European nations. Although not massive monumental structures, these smaller building still expressed a degree of wealth of power, usually constructed of dressed stone and adorned by elements reflective of Classical architecture. Their use was transferred from the Old World to the New.³⁷

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ "Dean of the Sourdoughs," *Billings Gazette*, 18 February 1968; "Ranklin," *Billings Gazette*, 17 March 1974; Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, "Trustee Account," 18 October 1951.

³⁵ Minutes of meeting attended by Erwin Draper, Elmer Bowlen, Alda Ottero and A. L. Ranklin, 12 May 1933, in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office.

³⁶ "Arnold 'Bud' H. Kautsky," *Billings Gazette*, 3 February 1997; "Minutes of Meetings of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, 4 August 1977, in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office; Carbon County Clerk and Recorder, Instrument file # 287534, 5 August 1997; Dothit, interview, 11 August 2010.

³⁷ Rusty Clark, *From Communal Graves to Community Mausoleums: A Short History of Urban Cemeteries*, April 28, 2009, accessed at http://storiescarvedinstone.com/cem_hist5.html; Douglas Keister, "A Brief History of the Community Mausoleum," accessed at <http://www.eastridgelawncemetery.com>.

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The concept of community mausoleums started to take firm root in United States after the turn of the twentieth century.. Development and refinement of reinforced concrete for building construction helped spur the movement. In addition to lowering construction costs, the use of reinforce concrete enabled advances in ventilation systems that greatly improved the sanitation aspects of housing the remains of a large number of individuals in a single building. The modern mausoleum fit neatly with the American public's every-growing perception that science and technology were essential to improving the human condition. More specifically, it offered the comfort and piece of mind that one's deceased body as well as family and friends would not suffer the ravages of decay. Architects boldly embraced some of the more exotic styles of the time, such as Egyptian and Spanish Revivals, for new mausoleum projects, although more tradition forms were popular as well. The heyday of the nation's early community mausoleum movement lasted well into the 1920s. The Great Mausoleum at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California was the most ambitious project of the era, containing more than 35,000 crypts.³⁸

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum exhibits design elements indicative of the Prairie School Style, the architectural form associated with the United States most famous architect of the twentieth century, Frank Lloyd Wright. While most widely used in residential projects, the Prairie Style also enjoyed favor for public and commercial buildings in the 1910s and 1920s. The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum stands as a vernacular interpretation of the style. Elements that most notably contribute to its Prairie School character include a tall central massing with lower subordinate wings, horizontal rows of windows, stylized leaded art glass windows, a prominent entry feature, and flattened pedestal urns.

³⁸ Keister, "A Brief History of the Community Mausoleum;" Kay Holbo, "The Mausoleum," 34-35, accessed at <http://www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org>; David G. Stuart, "Old Mission Mausoleum," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, September 2008, Kansas State Historical Society, Wichita; "Topeka Cemetery 'Mausoleum Row,'" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, ca. 2000, accessed at http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/nominations.

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Carbon County, MT

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- "Red Lodge Mausoleum." Subject Folder. On file, City Clerk Office, Red Lodge City Hall.
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- Stuart, David G. "Old Mission Mausoleum." National Register of Historic Places Nomination. September 2008. On file, Kansas State Historical Society, Wichita.
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- Wagers, Scott J. *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of 5.1 Miles of Montana Highway 78, Northwest of Red Lodge, Carbon County, Montana*. Billings: Ethnoscience, Inc., 2008. Submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation.
- Zupan, Shirley and Harry J. Owens, eds. *Red Lodge: Saga of a Western Area Revisited*. Red Lodge: Carbon County Historical Society, 1979; reprint Billings: Frontier Press, 1997.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been

Primary location of additional data:

_____ State Historic Preservation Office

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☐ requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: **Carbon County Historical Society & Museum**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 12 636561 5006043
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The strip of land 4 feet wide on the north side of the south boundary line of the Red Lodge City Cemetery, particularly described as follows: commencing at the southwest corner of said City Cemetery and running thence east along the south boundary 70 feet to place of beginning and thence east along the south boundary line 85 feet, thence due north 4 feet, thence due west 85 feet; thence due south 4 feet to the place of beginning.

The strip of land immediately adjoining the above described property on the south and more particularly described as follows: a strip of land 41 feet wide on the south side of the north boundary line of the Catholic Cemetery of Red Lodge, and more particularly described as follows: commencing at the northwest corner said Catholic Cemetery and running thence east along the north boundary 70 feet to place of beginning and thence east along the north boundary line 85 feet, thence due south 41 feet, thence due west 85 feet; thence due north 41 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary coincides with tracts of cemetery land on which the mausoleum is located. Ownership of the tracts and the mausoleum building is common.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary McCormick / Architectural Historian

organization Renewable Technologies, Inc.

date August 2010

street & number 8 W. Park St., Suite 313

telephone 406-782-0494

city or town Butte

state MT

zip code 59701

e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Carbon County, MT

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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ____.

(please see Continuation Sheets)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Red Lodge

street & number 1 S. Platt

telephone 406- 446-1606

city or town Red Lodge

state MT

zip code 59068

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

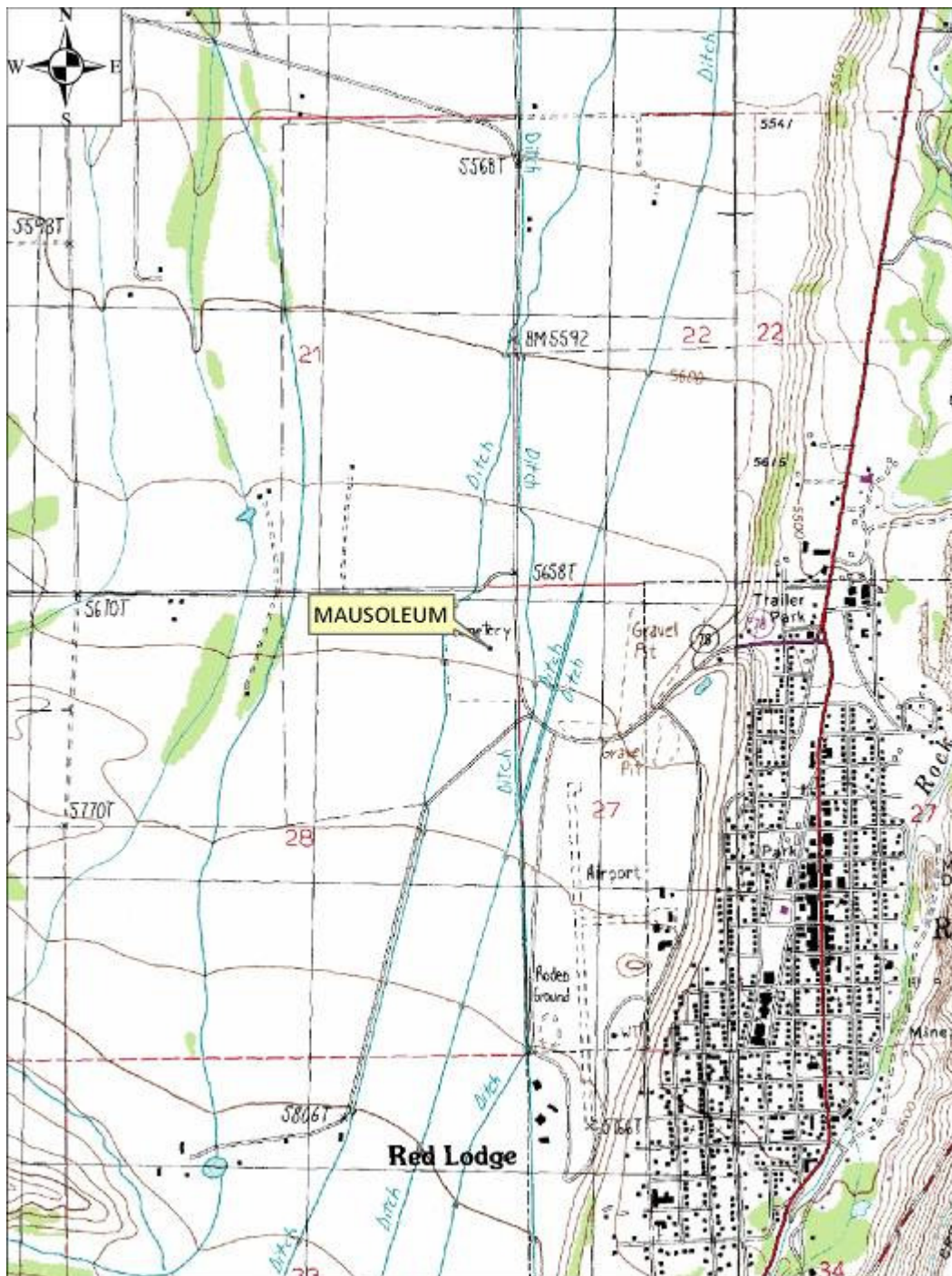
Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

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Maps and Additional Documentation



USGS TOPO: Red Lodge West (1983)

Location of Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

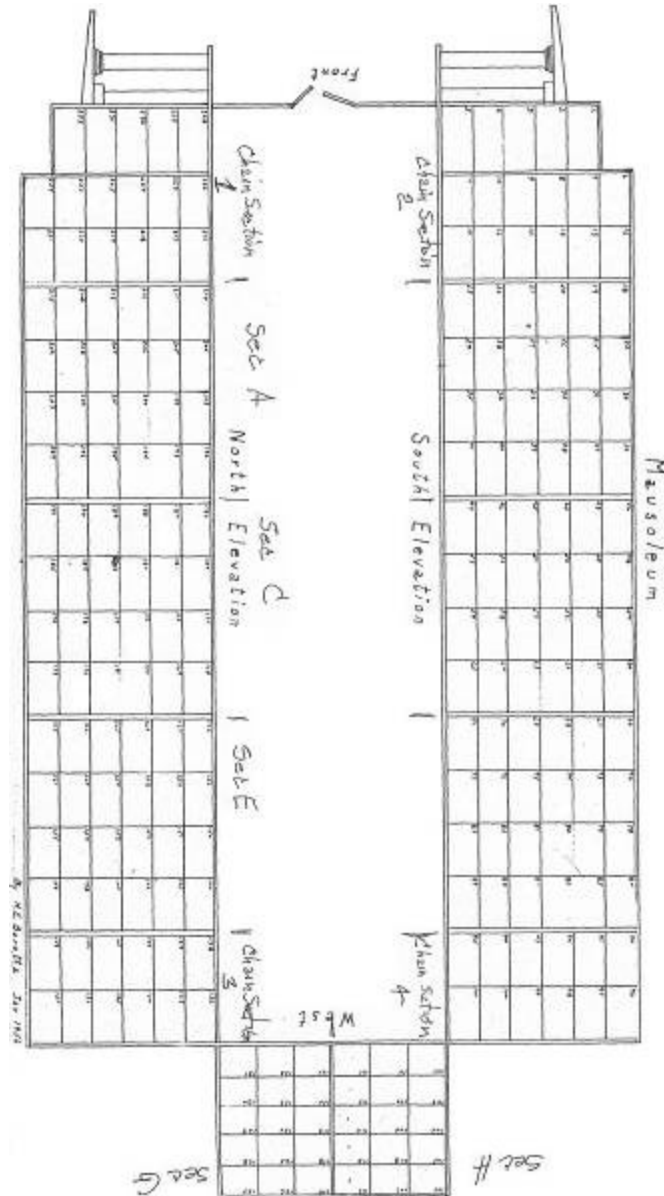
Carbon County, MT

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Sketch Plan

Date: November 1956

Location of Original: City Clerk Office, City of Red Lodge
11 S. Pratt, Red Lodge, MT 59068



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Aerial of Red Lodge City Cemetery showing location of Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum.

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo # 1

Name of Photographer:

Unknown

Date of Photograph:

Ca. 1924

Location of Original Digital Files:

Carbon County Historical Society & Museum,
224 Broadway Ave. N., Red Lodge, MT 59068

Front façade, view to west-northwest.

Photo # 1, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0001)

Photo #'s 2-9

Name of Photographer:

Mary McCormick

Date of Photographs:

July 2010

Location of Original Digital Files:

8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Mausoleum at center background. View to southwest.

Photo # 2, Cemetery overview, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0002)



Front façade, view to west.

Photo # 3, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0003)

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Front façade and south elevation, view to northwest.

Photo # 4, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0004)



West and north elevations, view to southeast.

Photo # 5, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0005)

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Interior, view to west

Photo # 6, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0006)

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Interior, view to east.

Photo # 7, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0007)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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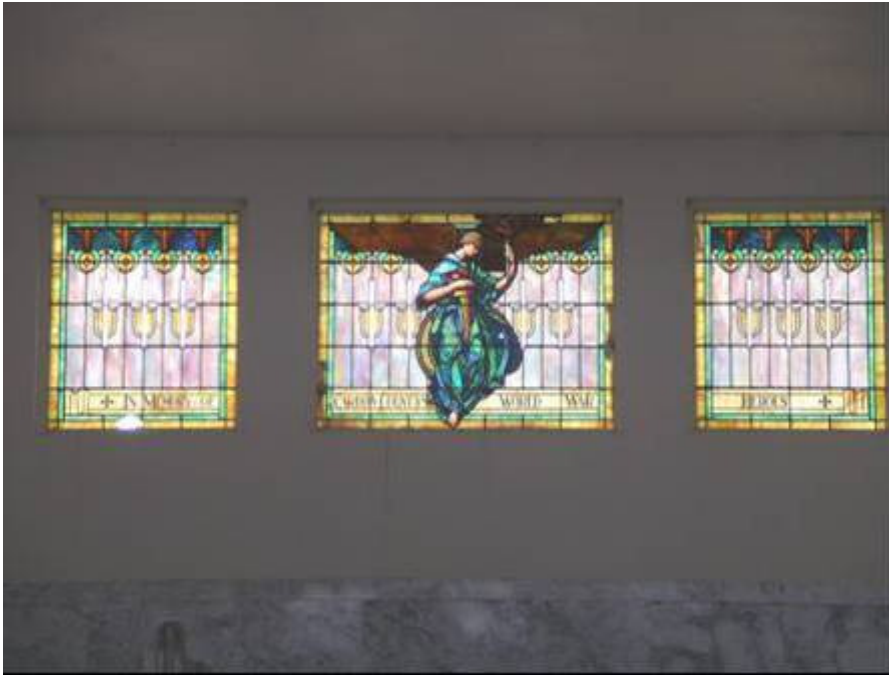
Name of Property

Carbon County, MT

County and State

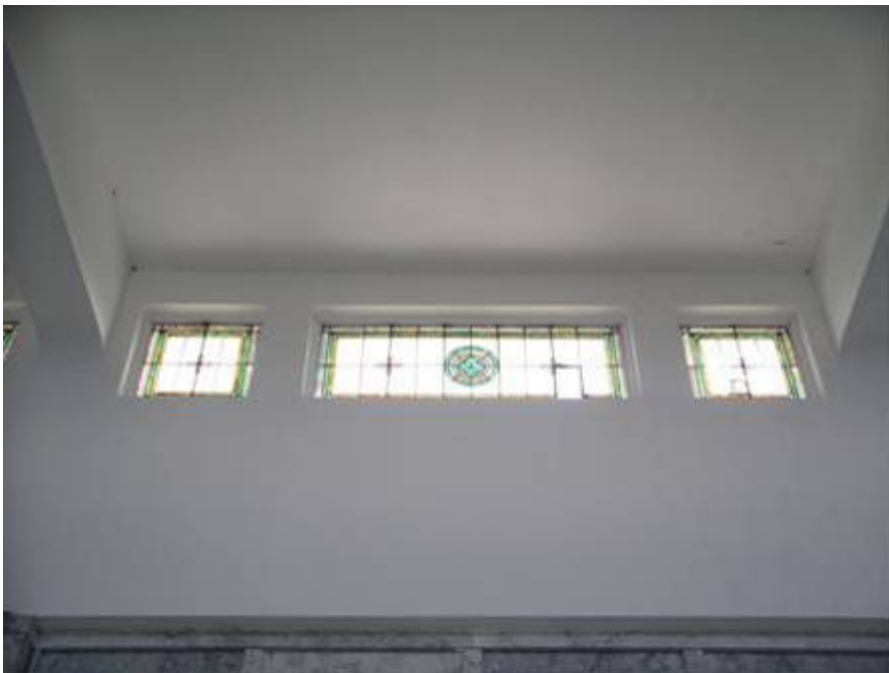
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 25



Stained glass clerestory windows at front façade, view to east.

Photo # 8, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0008)



Stained glass clerestory windows on north elevation, view to south.

Photo # 9, (MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0009)